



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

August 24, 2017

SBPA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CBP PAO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

# News Release

## **Border Patrol prepares for Hurricane Harvey**

**EDINBURG, Texas** – As Hurricane Harvey continues to strengthen, the U.S. Border Patrol Rio Grande Valley Sector would like to remind the community to take proper precautions and plan accordingly in case an evacuation is necessary.

Border Patrol checkpoints will not be closed unless there is a danger to the safety of the traveling public and our agents. Border Patrol resources, including personnel and transportation, will be deployed on an as needed basis to augment the efforts and capabilities of local-response authorities.

The Border Patrol is a law enforcement agency and we will not abandon our law enforcement duties. If there is a time when we have to unite with our emergency preparedness partners to evacuate community members, we assure you that we will act quickly ensuring that the safety of those requiring evacuation remains paramount.

Please visit [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) to view additional news releases and other information pertaining to Customs and Border Protection or follow us on Twitter at [@CBPRGV](https://twitter.com/CBPRGV).

~CBP~

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** RGV PAICs  
**Cc:** PADILLA, MANUEL JR; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) CHAPA, IRMA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** RGV HQ Message to Hurricane Harvey  
**Attachments:** 08\_24\_17 Hurricane Harvey.doc; HurricanesDHSvetted.doc

Good morning RGV Leadership,

RGV HQ Leadership is requesting that you reference the following message to inquiries on BP operations as we weather Hurricane Harvey.

### **Border Patrol prepares for Hurricane Harvey**

**EDINBURG, Texas** – As Hurricane Harvey continues to strengthen, the U.S. Border Patrol Rio Grande Valley Sector would like to remind the community to take proper precautions and plan accordingly in case an evacuation is necessary.

Border Patrol checkpoints will not be closed unless there is a danger to the safety of the traveling public and our agents. Border Patrol resources, including personnel and transportation, will be deployed on an as needed basis to augment the efforts and capabilities of local-response authorities.

The Border Patrol is a law enforcement agency and we will not abandon our law enforcement duties. If there is a time when we have to unite with our emergency preparedness partners to evacuate community members, we assure you that we will act quickly ensuring that the safety of those requiring evacuation remains paramount.

#### U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION GUIDANCE ON EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS

- In the event of an emergency -- such as a hurricane -- and the need for an evacuation, our highest priority will be the safe evacuation of people who are leaving the danger zone.
- The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will not impede a safe and speedy evacuation. Saving lives is always the paramount responsibility of this department and the same is true at the border.

- There will not be any pre-screening of individuals during an emergency evacuation. CBP officers will be available to help anyone regardless of citizenship or nationality.
- Obviously U.S. laws do not suspended, however in the event of an evacuation, we want to make sure that we can help local authorities to move traffic along quickly. This will not preclude CBP from questioning individuals whose presence in the United States or criminal activity/history warrants investigation. This may include aggravated felons or individuals who are wanted by other law enforcement authorities.

CBP's efforts will be conducted in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security's National Response Framework. They will be closely coordinated with, and fully supportive of, state and local law enforcement partners, and their efforts

Be safe!

Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Special Operations Supervisor

Communications Branch

RGV Sector HQ

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** CHAPA, IRMA  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 11:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RGV)  
**Subject:** FW: Border Patrol says Texas checkpoints to remain open during Hurricane Harvey

FYSA

Irma Chapa  
Director of Communications  
RGV Sector Border Patrol

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 2:46:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Cc:** CHAPA, IRMA  
**Subject:** FW: Border Patrol says Texas checkpoints to remain open during Hurricane Harvey

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Please see below.

Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

*Supervisory Border Patrol Agent*

*RGV Public Affairs*

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) O)

(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10*

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** Border Patrol says Texas checkpoints to remain open during Hurricane Harvey

Hello (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Do you have an updated press release about this? Are the checkpoints remaining open? And is there a chance that some of them stop their activity?

Thank you very much,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Texas Correspondent  
Austin (TX), USA  
EFE News Services  
Tel: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
[www.efes.es](http://www.efes.es)



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EFE News, the world's largest Spanish-language news agency, generates more than 5,000 items per day - text, photos, radio, video and multimedia - from an extensive network covering more than 120 countries.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RGV)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 3:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** RE: BP operations in South Texas

HI (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Yes- it is closed at this time. We may turn it on again but are waiting to see what impact the storm actually has at landfall. It is well south of the storm so we may open it again tomorrow morning.

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 1:25:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RGV)  
**Subject:** FW: BP operations in South Texas

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) I'm drafting a response but can you verify the checkpoint on 77 is closed?

Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Public Affairs Specialist  
US Customs and Border Protection

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 1:42:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** BP operations in South Texas

Hey, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Just following up on a voicemail I left you, re Border Patrol operations in South Texas. I spoke to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in Washington and he said that the checkpoint along highway 77 from Brownsville to Corpus was closed currently but suggested I double check with you on that. Is that the case?

What other operational changes have been made?

Thanks in advance for your help. I am on deadline.

Cheers — (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Immigration Reporter  
The Wall Street Journal  
Los Angeles

(b) (6) (o)  
(c)

Twitter (b) (6)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) RGV  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** uth Texas

Also closed the checkpoint on Highway 4 in Ft. Brown. Same thing with that one as far as opening again.

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 1:28:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RGV)  
**Subject:** RE: BP operations in South Texas

Thanks!

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Public Affairs Specialist  
US Customs and Border Protection

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The Wall Street Journal  
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(b) (6) (o)  
(c)

Twitter: (b) (6)